

## Context Matrix

Method or Process	High Complexity <sup>1</sup>	Low Complexity	Conflictual <sup>2</sup>	Peaceful	Small group (<30)	Large group	Microcosm / Multi-stakeholder <sup>3</sup>	Peer group	Diversity of power and class <sup>4</sup>	Cultural and generational diversity <sup>5</sup>	Facilitator needs specific training
Appreciative Inquiry	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Change Lab	X		X		X		X			X	X
Charrette		X			X	X	X	X			X
Circle	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
Citizens Council (Jury)	X	X			X		X				X
Consensus Conference	X	X			X		X				X
Conversation Cafes			X		X		X				
Deep Democracy	X	X	X		X				X	X	X
Deliberative Mapping						X	X	X			X
Focus Group					X			X			
Future Search	X			X		X (60-70)	X			X	
Open Space	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	
Participatory Appraisal					X	X	X	X	X	X	
Participatory Strategic Planning					X	X	X	X	X	X	
Planning for Real					X	X		X	X	X	
Planning Cell				X	X		X	X			
Public Conversations Project			X		X		X				
Scenario Planning	X		X	X	X		X	X			X
Sustained Dialogue	X		X		X		X		X	X	X
Visioning					X	X			X	X	
World Café	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	

<sup>1</sup>High to Low Complexity: Cause and effect are far apart in space and time in relation to the issue being discussed, there are divergent opinions and interests related to the issue, the context is constantly changing, and old solutions no longer work.

<sup>2</sup>Conflictual to Peaceful Context: The issue or group was emotionally charged, and whether different, entrenched positions seem incompatible. The intention is to go directly into the conflict and resolve it.

<sup>3</sup>Microcosm/Multi-stakeholder to Peer-focused: Some processes are specifically designed to “get the whole system in the room,” while others are less dependent on this.

<sup>4</sup>Diversity of power and social class: Some approaches are explicitly conscious of power dynamics and include ways of dealing with it.

<sup>5</sup>Generational and cultural diversity: Some processes are particularly good for this kind of diversity.